

An Update on the OSW Methods Development Activities for Perchlorate in Solids

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Presentation Outline

- **Background**
- **Perchlorate in Soil**
- **The OSW Perchlorate Task Force**
- **Analytical Methods for Perchlorate in Solids**
 - Method 9058 (IC)
 - Method 6850 (HPLC/MS)
 - Possible New Method (IC/MS)
- **Contact Information**



Background

- Perchlorate (ClO_4^-) is an oxidant used primarily in the manufacture of solid propellant.
- Other sources include fireworks, highway safety flares, airbag inflators and some nitrate-based fertilizers.
- Perchlorate inhibits the iodine uptake by the thyroid gland and thus affects:
 - Thyroid hormone production
 - Thyroid regulation of metabolism, and
 - Neurological development of fetus and newborn
- Presently, perchlorate has been detected in twenty (20) States, various aquifers, crops, and milk
- The EPA proposed drinking water action level is $1 \mu\text{g/L}$; State action levels range from 1 to $31 \mu\text{g/L}$.



Background (cont.)

- The EPA has not yet set an action level for perchlorate in soil, however, EPA Region 9 has identified a Preliminary Remediation Goal (PRG) of 7.8 mg/kg.
- The current method for perchlorate in solids is Method 9058.
- There are analytical issues with the current published methods (314.0 for water and 9058 for solids).



Perchlorate in Soil

- **Very little information and data are available about:**
 - The ionic strength of soils.
 - How perchlorate behaves in solid matrices along with the stability in soil.
 - What are the inorganic and organic compounds in soil that may interfere with the analysis of perchlorate?
 - Are the compounds that interfere with perchlorate analysis in water the same for soil and soil extracts?
- **The conductivity range for 270 soil sample extracts analyzed by the Texas Tech, Groundwater Analysis Laboratory in 2002 and 2003, was low (no more than 800 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$).**
- **It is believed that perchlorate migrates through soils with little, if any, absorption occurring, however, the studies and literature to support this hypothesis are limited.**



Perchlorate in Soil (cont.)

- Studies by the U.S. Army Engineer Research & Development Center in Vicksburg, MS and Omaha, NE, show that:
 - As expected, the majority of perchlorate was recovered in the exposure solution.
 - Perchlorate soil absorption did not appear to be affected by various soil types or oxygen conditions (oxic versus anoxic).
 - However, of the five soils tested, the high pH soil demonstrated the highest level of perchlorate in the leachates.



The OSW Perchlorate Task Force

- OSW
- ORD
- LTIG
- DOD
- Instrument Vendors / Method Developers
- Commercial Laboratories



Analytical Methods for the Determination of Perchlorate in Solids

- Method 9058 (Ion Chromatography with Chemical Suppression and Conductivity Detection).
- Method 6850 (High Performance Liquid Chromatography / Mass Spectrometry).
- An Anticipated New Method (ion Chromatography / Mass Spectrometry).



Method 9058 (IC)

- Method was proposed in November 2000.
- The scope and applicability of Method 9058, as currently written:
 - 4 $\mu\text{g/L}$ lower limit of detection for spiked reagent water samples.
 - Performs adequately on water samples with conductivities up to 1000 $\mu\text{S/cm}$. Water samples with conductivities $>1000 \mu\text{S/cm}$ have not been tested.
 - The method could produce false positive and false negative results due to sample matrix interferences attributed to co-elutants and high total dissolved solids.



Method 9058 (IC) (Cont.)

- When this method is used to analyze unfamiliar samples, perchlorate identification should be supported by a demonstration of performance. The method recommends that the detected concentrations be confirmed using either another analytical column with dissimilar ion chromatographic conditions or other approved analytical techniques such as IC/MS, LC/MS, LC/MS/MS, or ion selective electrode.
 - This recommendation is especially important for situations where the data will be used for compliance or other regulatory purposes.
- **Our goals for refining Method 9058**
 - Broaden the scope such that the method is applicable for aqueous and leachate samples having high total dissolved solids,
 - Lower the level of detection for perchlorate to sub-ppb level,
 - Have better chromatographic separation;
 - Minimize false positive and negative results;
 - Include extraction procedures for solids.



Method 9058 (IC) (Cont.)

- We will continue our refinement of Method 9058 for the intended use.
- Current Status: Evaluating the sample preparation procedures to be included in Method 9058
 - Reviewed five currently available extraction procedures for soils.
 - Spiked four soil samples containing perchlorate and extracted them using two of the selected procedures.

- Alliant Techsystems (ATK)

- Texas Tech (GAL)

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| ▪ Dilution Ratio | 1:10 | 1:5 |
| ▪ Extractant | water | water |
| ▪ Drying | air-dried | air-dried |
| ▪ Clean-up | none | C ¹⁸ SPE cartridge |
- Percent recoveries in soils extracted with these two procedures are comparable.



Method 9058 (IC) (Cont.)

- Continuing to gather information and data to help determine if pre-treatment, pre-concentration, and pre-elution steps are necessary
 - Conductance ranges for various types / locations of soils, sediments, and sludges
 - Identify possible inorganic and organic compounds that may interfere with the analysis of perchlorate in soil, sediment, and sludge sample matrices
- Next Steps: Will perform further extraction studies to further develop the recommended sample extraction and preparation procedure
 - Compare extraction efficiency on native soils due to drying (air-dried verses as-received)
 - Compare extraction efficiency on high conductivity soils (samples will be spikes with a combination of chloride, sulfate, carbonate, nitrate, and phosphate salts prior to extraction to yield an approximate extract conductivity of 2,500 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ in one set of extracts and 5,000 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ in another set of extracts)
 - Determine if a pre-treatment procedure is needed.



Method 9058 (IC) (Cont.)

- We will determine if pre-concentration and pre-elution steps are needed pending the outcome of the following:
 - Conductance range of soil extracts, sediments, and sludges;
 - Possible inorganic and organic interferences;
 - Sample size;
 - Level of detection
- Should pre-concentration and pre-elution steps be necessary, two possible techniques will be evaluated:
 - Dionex (Cryptand C1 Concentrator Column)
 - Texas Tech, Groundwater Analysis Laboratory, Standard Operating Procedure
- Will include an improved system (i.e., AG/AS 16 columns and improved suppressor ASRS Ultra II)
- Will consider whether or not to include a new eluant generator and / or a second confirmatory column



Method 6850 (HPLC/MS)

- The draft method was submitted for evaluation July 2004.
- The method uses a high performance liquid chromatography / mass spectrometry (HPLC/MS)
- The method will be applicable to the determination of perchlorate in soil, sediment, and sludge
- This method may be applicable to other matrices (e.g., biota), but these types of matrices will not be evaluated
- A 100 μL portion of the sample or extract is introduced into the HPLC/MS. Perchlorate is separated by the HPLC, and partially fragmented by the MS using masses 83, 85, and 89
- The 83/85 isotopic ratio reflects the isotopic ratio of naturally occurring ^{36}Cl to ^{37}Cl and is used for additional identification of perchlorate.
- An oxygen-18 isotopic labeled perchlorate is used as an internal standard and is monitored at mass 89.
- The Method requires less sample preparation (without sample pre-treatment). A single lab validation study results look very promising.



Method 6850 (HPLC/MS) (Cont.)

- Proposed HPLC/MS Operating Conditions Using Agilent 1100 HPLC/MS
- Pump Control
 - Flow Rate: 0.5 mL/min
 - Run Time: 10.0 min
 - HPLC Mobile Phase: Isocratic 53.00% Solvent A (95% ACN / 4.5% Water / 0.5% Acetic Acid) 47.00% Solvent B (94.5% Water / 5% CAN / 0.5% Acetic Acid)
- Mass Spectrometer
 - Ionization Mode: Electrospray
 - Polarity: Negative
- SIM Parameters

SIM Ion	Fragmentor	Gain (EMV)	Actual Dwell
83.00	160V	3.0	192 msec
86.00			192 msec
89.00			192 msec



Method 6850 (HPLC/MS) (Cont.)

- Spray Chamber

- Gas Temp: 320°C
- Drying Gas (Nitrogen): 12.0 L/min.
- Nebulizer Pressure: 50 psig

- Capillary Voltage

- Negative: 1450 V

- Autosampler and Column

- Injection Volume: 100 μ L
- Column Temp: 30°C



Method 6850 (HPLC/MS) (Cont.)

- Current Status:
 - The OSW Perchlorate Task Force completed a preliminary review.
 - The comments received thus far will be forwarded to Data Chem Laboratories (method developer) this week.
 - A revised method will be forwarded for further Task Force review and approval before it is sent for the OSW Inorganic Methods Workgroup review.
 - A multi-laboratory validation study is planned for next year.



Anticipated New Method

- Determination of perchlorate in solids by IC/MS.
- An instrument vendor contacted OSW for submission of a proposed method for our evaluation.
- The draft version of this method should be received within the next few months.



Relevant Contact Addresses and Phone Numbers

- Methods Team Homepage: www.epa.gov/SW-846
- Methods Information Communication Exchange (MICE)
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Additional Support Welcome

- The OSW Perchlorate Task Force consists of chemists from seven EPA Regions (3,4,5,6,7,9,and 10). I am also seeking support from outside experts and encourage your participation in further developing Method 9058 and the additional development and validation of new perchlorate methods.

